



Building structured event indexes of large volumes of financial and economic data for decision making

EU - FP7 Work Programme Call FP7-ICT-2011-8-316404
Challenge 4.4 -Area Intelligent Information Management

german.rigau@ehu.es

<http://adimen.si.ehu.es/~rigau>

<http://www.newsreader-project.eu/>



IXA NLP group <http://ixa.si.ehu.es>

PROJECTS



EUSKO JAURLARITZA
GOBIERNO VASCO

A motako ikertalde finkatua

TIMM

OPENMT²

KNOW²



Paths



IMLT

ELÍAS
evaluating information social systems

berbat^{ek}

+

- OpeNER (2 years started on July 2012)
- **NewsReader** (3 years started on January 2013)
- LoCloud (3 years started on January 2013)
- Readers (3 years started on January 2013)



The NewsReader project

- Process **financial news** in 4 different European languages (English, Dutch, Spanish, Italian).
- Extract **what** happened to **whom**, **when**, and **where**.
Align, storing provenance, not discarding any information.
- Distinguish unfolding **story lines**.
- Assist financial decision support by **explaining** current events.
- *Automating Detective Work*
- *Discovering story lines on the Web*

The NewsReader project

- Consortium
 - VU University Amsterdam (NL)
 - University of the Basque Country (ES)
 - Fondazione Bruno Kessler (IT)
 - LexisNexis (multinational)
 - ScraperWiki (GB)
 - Synerscope (NL)
- Funded by EU FP7 programme, grant 316404
- Jan. 2013 - Dec. 2015



EMM NewsBrief

EMM NewsExplorer

Name Search

Text Search



NewsExplorer

News Analysis

RSS RSS feed for the latest news summary

Daily News Analysis, across languages and over time

Main Menu

[News Summary](#)
[About EMM NewsExplorer](#)

News language and date

Language or country:

en - English

Date:

Jan 2013

Mo	Tu	We	Th	Fr	Sa	Su
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

Analysis over time

Timeline

Timeline [en] for 01/2013

50

Clustered news for Sunday, January 13, 2013

Read more...



View with Google Earth

Mali rebel power surprises France [24]

ar bg da de es fr it nl no

France expresses surprise at the fighting strength of Islamists in Mali, as Paris keeps up its bombing of militant targets for a third day.
 bbc 3:56:00 PM CET

Controversial cleric behind massive rally [23]

da es fa it tr

Palestinian protesters evicted from E1, West Bank [20]

es fr it nl no pt sv tr

Israeli police have evicted around a hundred Palestinian protesters from a known as E1. The activists...

Countries

	United States (331)
	India (143)
	United Kingdom (136)
	France (95)
	China (80)
	Haiti (45)
	Sudan (42)
	Australia (37)
	Japan (34)
	Egypt (33)
	Afghanistan (33)
	Canada (32)
	Pakistan (31)
	Sri Lanka (29)
	Venezuela (29)
	Myanmar (28)
	United Arab Emirates (28)
	Mali (24)
	Iran, Islamic Republic Of (22)
	Algeria (22)
	Palestinian Territory, Occupied (20)
	Israel (17)
	Italy (16)
	Ghana (15)
	Somalia (15)
	Ireland (14)

People

François Hollande
 Jean-Yves Le Drian
 Hosni Mubarak
 Benjamin Netanyahu
 David Cameron
 Barack Obama
 Mickey Rosenfeld
 Habib Ibrahim El Adly

This Week's New Stories

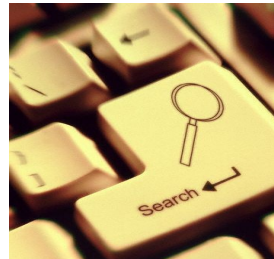
Firefighters battle blaze in Australia
 January 8, 2013 - January 13, 2013
 If you got the flu vaccine, are you covered?
 January 9, 2013 - January 13, 2013
 French forces begin military intervention in Mali
 January 10, 2013 - January 11, 2013
 Savile report to show victims were 'as young as 10'
 January 11, 2013 - January 12, 2013
 Detective describes Colo. shooting suspect's odd police station behavior
 January 7, 2013 - January 12, 2013
 €7m donor to Barretstown revealed
 January 8, 2013 - January 13, 2013
 US to review Boeing 787 Dreamliner safety issues
 January 8, 2013 - January 13, 2013
 Fake police officer shocks Kenya
 January 7, 2013 - January 10, 2013
 At least 50 injured in New York City ferry crash
 January 9, 2013 - January 10, 2013
 Unprecedented effort to remove Costa Concordia wreck
 Read more...

This Month's New Stories

French president says Mali air strikes necessary
 December 24, 2012 - January 13, 2013
 Connecticut school shooting: Adam Lanza shot each child between three and 11 times
 December 14, 2012 - December 25, 2012
 Pro-weapons group says 'gun control supporters have the blood of little children'

The problem

Thousands of decision makers

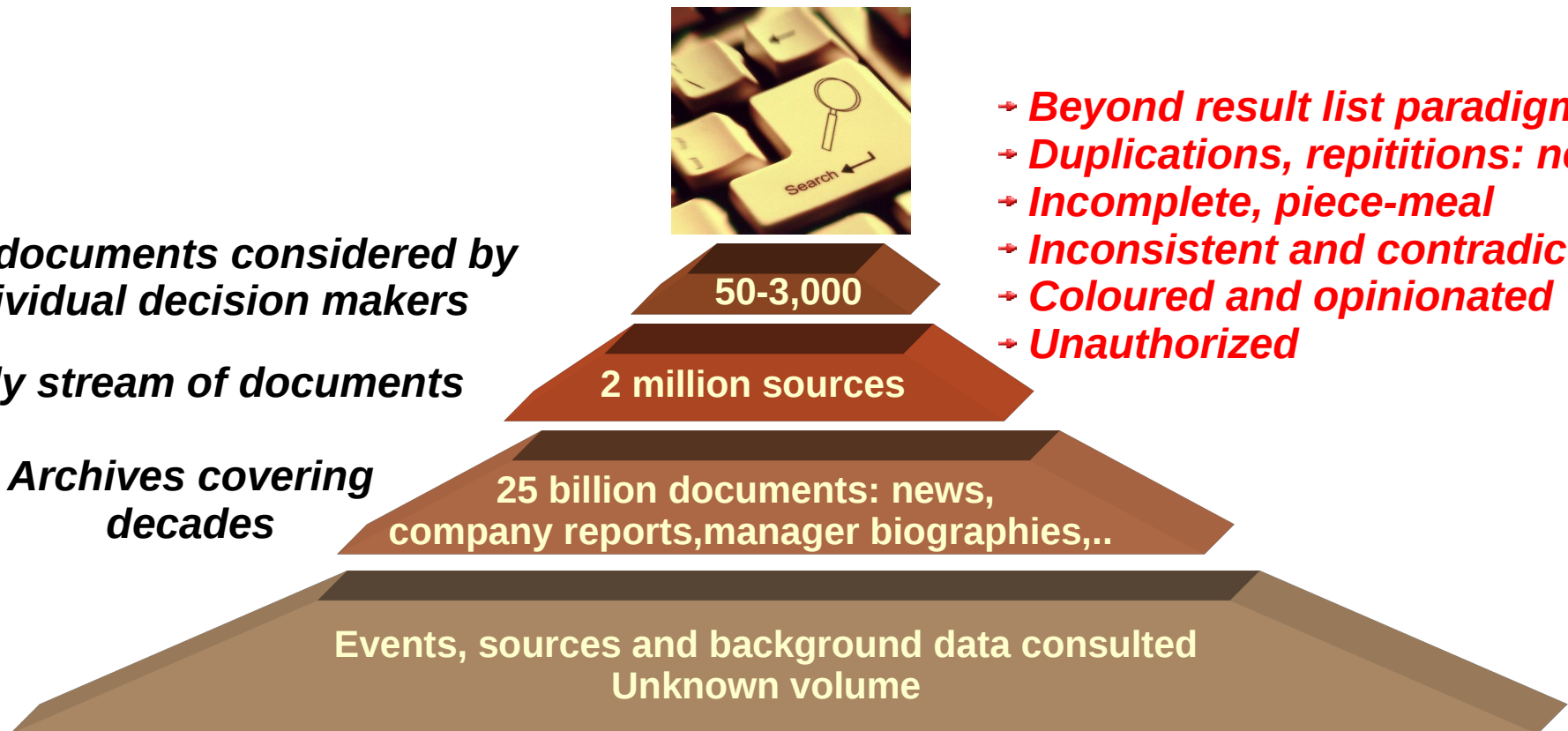


- **Beyond result list paradigm**
- **Duplications, repetitions: new/old**
- **Incomplete, piece-meal**
- **Inconsistent and contradictory**
- **Coloured and opinionated**
- **Unauthorized**

Daily documents considered by individual decision makers

Daily stream of documents

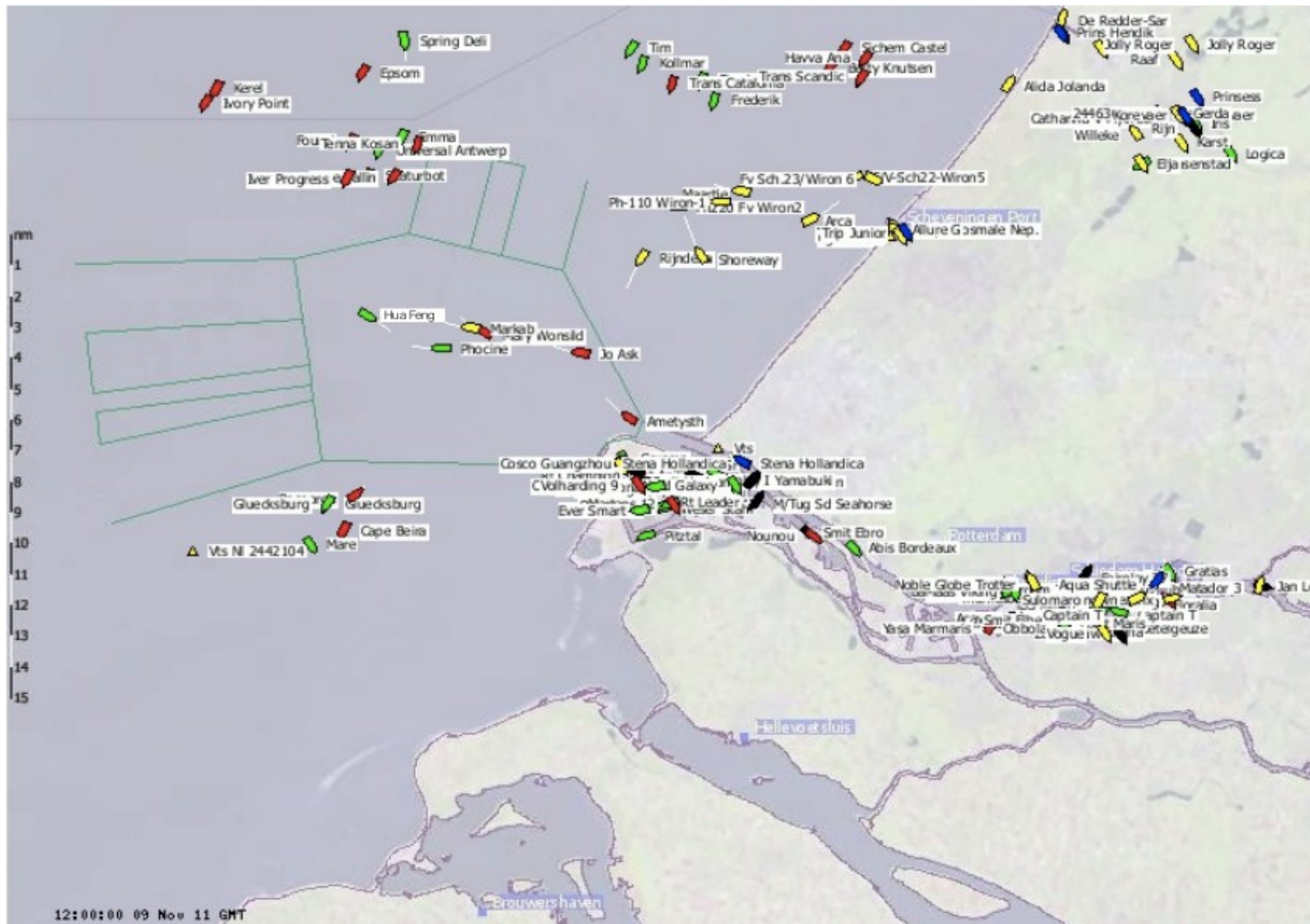
Archives covering decades



WIKIPEDIA
The Free Encyclopedia



Example: the Hua Feng enters the harbor and nobody cares ...



<http://shipphotos.wordpress.com>



First, I want to say sorry for this very poor quality, but it was my lense, which was decentered in 2008. To the photo: Ex "Gulf Jash" (today "Hua Feng") passing Cuxhaven bound for Hamburg on the 07.10.2008.

http://www.tradewindsnews.com



Ship data from: Clarkson Research Services Limited

Gulf Jash (Ex: Probo Koala) Dead/Demolished 47,980 DWT, Bulk/Oil Carrier, Built 1989

Owners/Managers are Gulf Navigation, Built at Hanjin H.I., Double Hull, Panama Flagged, RINA Classed, Ice Strengthened C Class, Length Overall of 182.80 m., Length Between Perpendiculars of 175.72 m., Draught of 13.09 m., Beam of 31.98 m., 53.35 Tonnes per Centimetre Immersion, Gross Tonnage of 31,255, MAN B. & W. Engine, Speed of 15.00 kts at 28.00 tonnes per day, Heavy Fuel Oil, Horsepower of 12,800B at ...

Owner/Manager Details

Gulf Navigation Group

Specialised Details

Cargo Capacities of 51,000 cu.m. and 321,000 Barrels, Segregated Ballast Tanks, Clean Ballast Tanks, 7 Tanks, Epoxy Tank Coating, Grain Capacity of 50,669 cu.m., 7 Holds, 7 Hatches, Strengthened for Heavy Cargo, 2 Gantry Crane(s) with a safe working load of 28 tonnes.

Additional information

IDENTIFICATION: Exnames are Probo Koala, Probo Baoning. Call Sign 3FOG9, IMO Number 8309816.

DIMENSIONS/TONNAGES: Moulded Depth of 18.03 m., Keel to mast air draft of 46.60 m., Tonnage of 26,146 Panama Canal Net, 26,837 Suez Canal Net, 14,257 International Net, 14,389 Light Displacement and 47,222 Dwt (long). ENGINE DETAILS: Engine Description 2 S.A. 4-cyl., Engine Model 4L80MC-E Mk1. CARGO HANDLING: 7 Centre Tanks with a capacity of 51,000 cu.m., Crude Oil Washing, Ore Cargo Capacity of 51,000 cu.m., Grab Fitted, Hatch Dimensions are 6 @ 13.50 x 20.20 m., 1 @ 13.50 x 12.20 m. SAFETY AND OTHER DETAILS: Last known special survey in July 2004, Clean Ballast Tanks, Inert Gas System.

Reported Sale and purchase information

Reported Sales available on [Shipping Intelligence Network](#)

Reported Fixture information

Reported Fixtures available on [Shipping Intelligence Network](#)



Article **Talk**

Read **Edit** View history

Search



2006 Ivory Coast toxic waste dump

From Wikipedia, the free encyclopedia

The **2006 Côte d'Ivoire toxic waste dump** was a [health crisis](#) in [Côte d'Ivoire](#) in which a ship registered in [Panama](#), the *Probo Koala*, chartered by the Dutch-based oil and commodity shipping company [Trafigura Bepeler BV](#), offloaded [toxic waste](#) at the Ivorian port of [Abidjan](#). The waste was then dumped by a local contractor at as many as 12 sites in and around the city of Abidjan in August 2006.

The gas caused by the release of these chemicals is blamed by the UN and the [government of Côte d'Ivoire](#) for the deaths of 17 and the injury of over 30,000 Ivorians, with injuries that ranged from mild headaches to severe burns of skin and lungs. Almost 100,000 Ivorians sought medical attention for the effects of these chemicals.^[1]

The substance was claimed by Trafigura to have been "slops", or waste water from the washing of the *Probo Koala*'s tanks. An inquiry in [the Netherlands](#), in late 2006, revealed the substance was more than 500 tonnes of a mixture of fuel, [caustic soda](#), and [hydrogen sulfide](#) for which Trafigura chose not to pay a €1,000 per cubic metre disposal charge at the [port of Amsterdam](#). The *Probo Koala* was turned away by several countries before offloading the toxic waste at the Port of Abidjan.^{[2][3]}

Trafigura denied any waste was transported from the Netherlands, saying that the substances contained only tiny amounts of hydrogen sulfide, and that the company did not know the substance was to be disposed of improperly. In early 2007, the company paid US\$198 million for cleanup to the Ivorian government without admitting wrongdoing, and the Ivorian government pledged not to prosecute the company.^[4] A series of protests and resignations of Ivorian government officials followed this deal.

In 2008, a civil lawsuit in London was launched by almost 30,000 Ivorians against Trafigura. In May 2009, Trafigura announced it would sue the [BBC](#) for [libel](#) after its *Newsnight* program alleged the company had knowingly sought to cover up its role in the incident. In September 2009 *The Guardian* obtained and published internal Trafigura emails showing that the traders responsible knew how dangerous the chemicals were. Shortly afterwards Trafigura offered an unnamed settlement figure to the [class action](#) suit against it.^[5]



A truck full of garbage on the streets of Abidjan. Much of Trafigura's toxic waste was dumped in large open areas in the poor suburbs of the city

Contents [hide]

- 1 The incident
 - 1.1 Background
 - 1.2 Dumping
 - 1.3 Immediate effects
 - 1.4 Trafigura's description of events

<http://www.trafigura.com>

Media Corrections

[Times correction, 7 September 2009 \(PDF\)](#)

"...Trafigura have always disputed that the dumping caused, or could cause, the deaths of the two men. The article and are defending the personal injury action being brought in the record straight."

[BBC broadcast apology, 17 December 2009 \(PDF\)](#)

"We accept that the independent experts who have considered this waste and these serious consequences. We withdraw those allegations."

[Independent apology, 27 February 2010 \(Weblink\)](#)

"On 17 September 2009 our front page story 'Toxic shame' concerned the legal settlement in the UK of claims by individuals who alleged that they had been injured when waste from a Trafigura chartered ship was illegally dumped... The article stated that claimants had been maimed and wrongly suggested that, due to the settlement, claims of more serious injuries including miscarriages would not be tested in the High Court case. In fact such claims had already been withdrawn earlier last year..."

[Times Online correction, 30 April 2010 \(PDF\)](#)

"...We wish to make clear that the dumping was not carried out by Trafigura as the article may have suggested but by an independent local contractor without Trafigura's authority or knowledge. Furthermore, in September 2009 lawyers for Ivorians who were suing Trafigura over injuries allegedly caused by the dumping acknowledged that at worst the waste could only have caused flu-like symptoms..."

[Guardian apology, 6 May 2010 \(PDF\)](#)

"Our item headlined Success for the Guardian (26 April, page 2) erroneously linked the dumping of toxic waste in Ivory Coast from a vessel chartered by Trafigura with the deaths of a number of West Africans..."

[Economist correction, 16 December 2010 \(Weblink\)](#)

"In our article on corporate leaks last week 'Be afraid', we said that in September 2009 WikiLeaks had posted a UN report showing Trafigura had dumped hazardous waste in Cote d'Ivoire. In fact, the report leaked was a draft of a study commissioned by Trafigura itself..."

"Our item headlined Success for the Guardian (26 April, page 2) erroneously linked the dumping of toxic waste in Ivory Coast from a vessel chartered by Trafigura with the deaths of a number of West Africans..."

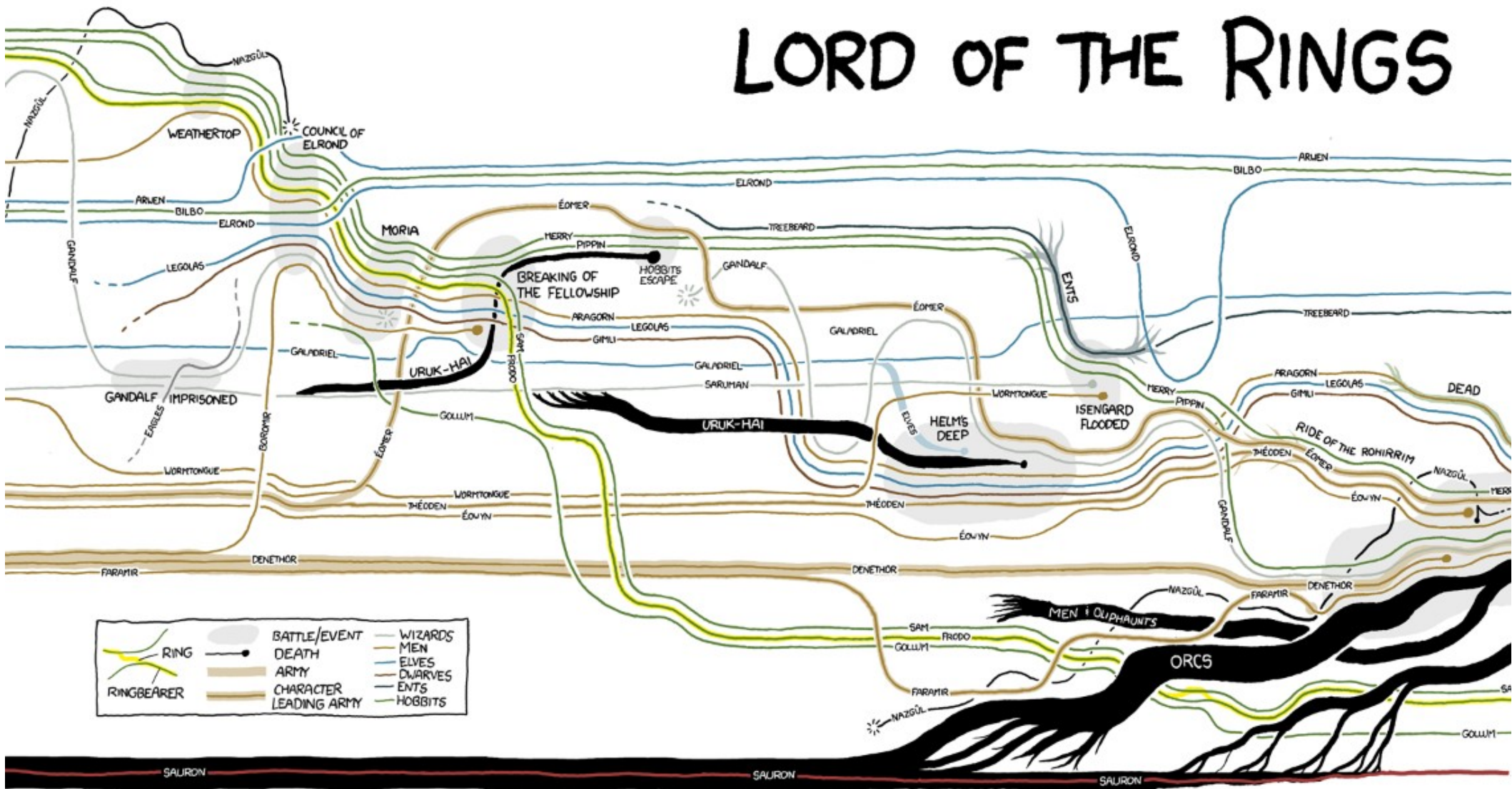
— Guardian

The task

- discover the **events** that preceded and possibly led to a current event and summarize these for a human user
 - investigate participating **actors**, **places**, moments in **time** and a limited number of relations between these
 - follow all leads in parallel
 - search for information on the web
 - store the connections in an RDF graph, keeping precise track of the provenance of the connections
 - summarize and present the results as a story line

Story lines (= narrative charts?)

LORD OF THE RINGS





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